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Seychelles President Welcomed by Pyongyangites

President France Albert Rene of the Republic of Seychelles, who had paid an official goodwill visit to the DPRK at the invitation of President Kim Il Sung, left Pyongyang on Sept. 23 by special plane after successfully concluding his five-day visit, according to a KCNA report.

During his five-day staying in the DPRK, the talks between President Kim Il Sung and President France Albert Rene were held on Sept. 20 and 23; agreements on news report and radio and television broadcasting signed between two countries; and the joint communique (See the full text on page 3) was delivered on Sept. 23.

Arrival

President Kim Il Sung warmly greated President France Albert Rene at the airport when he arrived in Pyongyang on Sept. 19 by a special plane for an official goodwill trip to the DPRK.

President Kim Il Sung exchanged handshakes with President France Albert Rene and hugged him.

Arriving there accompanying President France Albert Rene were M. Servina, Assistant Secretary-General, James Michel, Minister for Education, and others.

The guests were met at the airport by Vice-President Pak Sung Chul, Chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee Kim Man Gum, and leading personnel of science, education, culture and art, public health and the press.

Banquet

President Kim Il Sung arranged a grand banquet on the evening of Sept. 19 at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall in honour of President France Albert Rene.

Invited to the banquet were President France Albert Rene and his party. The members of the Seychelles education delegation were also invited to the banquet.

Present there were vice-President Pak Sung Chul, vice-Premiers and the persons concerned.

President Kim Il Sung made a speech at the banquet. (See the full text on page 2)

President France Albert Rene also spoke at the banquet. (See the full text on page 2)

The banquet proceeded in an amicable atmosphere overflowing with friendship.

Artists of the Mansudae Art Troupe gave a performance at the banquet.

Inspection

President France Albert Rene and his party visited various places for their staying in the DPRK.

On Sept. 20, they inspected the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and some of them visited Mangyongdae and inspected the Pyongyang Metro.

On Sept. 21, they visited Hamhung where they saw with keen interests the process of vinalon production of this enterprise firmly built as a Juche-based chemical fibre production base.

On Sept. 21, they visited various places of Pyongyang. In the morning the guests visited the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School. After being briefed on the history of the university, the guests went round to see educational facilities.

They also visited the Mangyongdae Cooperative Farm, and the unit of the Korean People's Army.

President Kim Il Sung warmly greeted on Sept. 19 President France Albert Rene of the Republic of Seychelles at the airport of Pyongyang. (KCNA Radiophoto)

DPRK: No Need to Talk with Tyrant Chon

Pyongyang clarified its stand that it will not go to the place of dialogue for the time being till everything has returned normal in south Korea, where a large number of democratic figures and patriots calling for peaceful reunification are arrested, imprisoned and penalized and the desire for peaceful reunification in totally suppressed.

This stand was declared in a statement made public on Sept. 24 by the working-level delegation of the DPRK side for the arrangement of the north-south premiers' contact.

In the statement, Pyongyang censured Seoul for its divisive and suppressive policy. It said: "Under the direct direction of the south Korean rulers, the party to the dialogue, a big organized racket inciting antagonism and confrontation within the nation and slandering the DPRK is being kicked up throughout south Korea and the nation-splitting manoeuvres seeking "two Koreas" policy are stepped up in a more undisguised way."

The statement was also quoted as saying that "As fellow countrymen and a party to the dialogue, we have no intention to make any slightest compromise with the anti-national crimes done to which everything patriotic and aspiring after democracy and reunification is stifled and our brothers and sisters are shedding blood and being penalized in south Korea.

Pyongyang stressed that it has no idea of taking the blood-stained hands of the butchers who pursue the permanent division of the nation and murdered compatriots at the sacred conference table nor intention to regard them as the party to our dialogue.

Pyongyang blamed Seoul for standing on the way of a dialogue for the peaceful reunification. It said: "The responsibility for having led to a grave difficulty the contact between the working-level delegates for the north-south premiers' contact which was arranged with the south Korean military fascist group seeking fascism, confrontation and division.

Pyongyang: Iran-Iraq Disputes Must Be Settled on Non-Aligned Principle

PYONGYANG, Sept. 27 (KCNA) – Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) on Sept. 27 came out with an editorial article headlined "Abnormal Situation in Arab Gulf Area" in connection with the development of the Iraq-Iran border disputes into an armed conflict.

Follows the gist of the article:

An extremely abnormal situation has been created in the Arabs Gulf area, attracting the attention of the world.

According to reports, the border disputes between Iraq and Iran which had broken out earlier have developed into an armed conflict of late, which is growing fiercer as time flows.

The two sides are attacking each other's military targets, populated areas and industrial establishments from land, sea and air with the mobilization of ground, naval and air forces and the war fire has even reached the capitals of the two countries.

Consequently, both sides are suffering heavy casualties and material losses.

Foreign press reports say that the armed conflict between the two countries is fraught with danger of expanding into a total war.

The armed conflict between Iran and Iraq is now arousing deep concern of the world peaceloving people.

If it continue, not settled, it will spell a big scourge of war to both countries and even lead to a grave situation endangering peace and security in the Middle East and the rest of the world.

Both Iraq and Iran are newly independent countries and member nations of the non-aligned movement. The peoples of both countries have the common aim and duty to consolidate the national independence, build a new life, oppose imperialism and Zionism, accomplish Arab's common cause and, furthermore, strengthen and develop the non-aligned movement.

The armed conflict between the two countries is not beneficial either in view of the national interests of their peoples or in view of the common cause of the Arab countries and the non-aligned movement. If they fight each other, there will appear a crevice in Arab unity and the anti-Israel front be weakened, leaving the imperialists and Zionists to pick up the profits.

The protracted colonial rule of the imperialists and colonialists have left behind borderline, religious and national problems, etc. between newly independent countries as its legacies. From this there may arouse differences and disputes between non-aligned countries.

The differences and disputes between non-aligned countries, however serious they may be, are internal problems between member states which pursue common aims. Therefore, such problem should be fairly solved in a peaceful way through negotiation between the parties concerned, without any outside interference, in accordance with the principle of the non-aligned movement, with the national interests and the overall interests of the non-aligned movement duly considered.

And the countries outside the dispute should take the stand of earnestly helping the involved parties settle it at an early date.

If the non-aligned countries be at feud and at loggerheads with each other in disputes, this will endanger the national independence and make it impossible to defend their unity or to strengthen and develop the non-aligned movement.

Today the imperialists are making crafty attempts to restore their old position in the non-aligned countries, directing their spearheads of aggression to them. Notably, they resort to the tactics of division and estrangement against the non-aligned countries in an effort to undermine their unity and solidarity and fish in troubled waters.

It is a trite method of the imperialists and colonialists to divide and rule and to divide and defeat one by one.

The Middle East nations are the main objects of imperialist manoeuvres of division and estrangement.

The non-aligned countries should not fight each other but promote friendship and cooperation in the common cause of anti-imperialism. To this end, they should set store by the fundamental factors uniting them and strive to remove the factors of division and should place the interests of unity in the foreground and subordinate everything to them.

If the two countries on the Arabs Gulf show self-restraint and make efforts to settle the disputes from the standpoint of respecting the other side, they will surely solve the pending problems in a peaceful way.

Speech of President KIM IL SUNG

President Kim Il Sung made the following speech:

Your Excellency esteemed Mr. President France Albert Rene,
Guests from Seychelles,
Comrades and friends,

We are now greatly delighted to meet again in Pyongyang Your Excellency France Albert Rene, Chairman of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front and President of the Republic of Seychelles.

This is the second visit to our country by Your Excellency Mr. President France Albert Rene, our intimate friend and comrade-in-arms.

Refreshing a warm feeling of fraternal friendship formed in my first meeting with Your Excellency Mr. President in May 1978, and on behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Korean people and on my own, I would like to extend a warmest welcome to you.

You have come thousands of miles to visit our country again. This is the expression of your deep trust in us and an exceptionally intimate feeling towards us and also the symbol of the excellent relations of friendship between our two peoples.

After victory in the June Revolution in Seychelles under the leadership of Your Excellency esteemed France Albert Rene, the Republic of Seychelles embarked upon the road of developing the relations of friendship with our Republic and has actively supported and encouraged our people's cause of national reunification.

The Government of the Republic of Seychelles took a just and daring measure when it severed diplomatic relations with the south Korean authorities in May last in denunciation of the south Korean military fascists for their brutal repression and slaughter of the south Korean people who rose against the fascist dictatorship and for democracy.

The resolute step taken by the government of Seychelles dealt a heavy blow at the separatists in their move to rig up "two Koreas" and gave a powerful support to the people in the south and the rest of Korea in their struggle for the democratization of the south Korean society and for an independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

We highly appreciate it as a noble action taken by Your Excellency Mr. President and the party and government of Seychelles true to the principle of international solidarity and revolutionary ethics, for which we reiterate our deep thanks to you.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Seychelles have community in that they maintain independence and advance under the unfurled banner of non-alignment.

The Seychellois people, united around their outstanding leader Your Excellency Mr. President France Albert Rene, are waging a vigorous struggle to consolidate the country's political and economic independence, develop education and culture and establish an advanced social system in which all people equally enjoy a happy life, frustrating the subversive activities and sabotage of the imperialists and their stooges.

We are convinced that the people of Seychelles will achieve a great success in building socialism which they have chosen as masters of their own destiny, thus developing their Republic into a splendid independent sovereign state which will shine brightly over the Indian Ocean.

The government and people of Seychelles categorically condemn the imperialists for their manoeuvrings to build up their military power, plunder natural resources in Diego Garcia Island and other regions of the Indian Ocean and constantly threaten peace and security in this part of the world, and they strongly demand that the Indian Ocean be turned into a peace zone, a nuclear-free zone.

This is a justifiable demand of the Republic of Seychelles, a country in the Indian Ocean; it is a legitimate sovereign right of the Seychellois people, which nobody can infringe upon.

We express full support to and solidarity with the government of Seychelles and the peoples in this region in their just struggle to turn the Indian Ocean into a peace zone.

Your Excellency esteemed Mr. President,

Your current visit to our country will mark an epoch-making event in expanding and developing to a new higher plane the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Seychelles and make a great contribution to strengthening the solidarity among the Asian and African peoples and the peoples of the non-aligned countries.

We are very pleased to have such true and brave comrades-in-arms as the Seychellois people in the region of the Indian Ocean and will, in the future, too, advance firmly hand in hand with the brotherly Seychellois people in the struggle to build a new world free from imperialism and colonialism, exploitation and oppression.

Allow me to take this opportunity of my meaningful reunion with Your Excellency Mr. President to propose a toast to the unbreakable fraternal friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Korea and Seychelles, to the prosperity and progress of the Republic of Seychelles, to the solidarity among the world people advocating independence, to the health of Your Excellency esteemed Mr. President France Albert Rene, to the health of the guests from Seychelles, and to the health of all comrades and friends present here. **(KCNA)**

Speech of President FRANCE ALBERT RENE

President France Albert Rene made the following speech:

Respected and beloved leader Comrade President Kim Il Sung, distinguished guests, comrades and friends,

May I, first of all, express my deep gratitude for the warm reception extended to me and to members of my delegation upon our arrival in Pyongyang.

We were overwhelmed by the spontaneous display of friendship by the people of Korea who turned up in large numbers to welcome us.

I would like to extend our sincere thanks for this sincere expression of friendship, a friendship which is fully reciprocated by the people of Seychelles.

If I have chosen to visit the DPRK barely two years after my first visit in May, 1978 it is because I believe that the Seychellois people have a great deal to learn from the Korean experience.

During my last visit I was impressed by the great strides which the Korean people have, under the wise and enlightened leadership of the great leader Comrade President Kim Il Sung, been able to make in all sectors of economic life.

I was particularly impressed that so much had been achieved in such a short space of time since the unprovoked imperialist aggression against your country which left destruction and ruin in its wake.

The achievements of the Korean people cannot be enumerated within the context of this brief address but they are there as an example of hard work and determination for the whole world to see.

The successes achieved in the development of industry and agriculture, the evolution of educational and health programmes and the emphasis on the full development of the child are unequalled examples of what determination and enlightened leadership can achieve within the framework of a socialist society.

I have mentioned that the Seychellois people have a great deal to learn from the Korean experience. This belief is what has motivated my second visit to the DPRK. Since my first visit the friendship between our two peoples has been translated into a meaningful programme of cooperation covering various fields through the assistance provided by Korean agricultural specialists. Agricultural equipment generously donated by the Korean government has helped in our effort to mechanise agricultural production thereby considerably enhancing output.

Our construction programme has also received a much needed boost through the generous provision of cement by the government of Korea. On behalf of the Seychellois people I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to you the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, President of the DPRK, and to the Korean people for these generous gifts which have had a significant impact on our efforts to provide a higher standard of living for our people and to develop economic self-reliance.

The Republic of Seychelles attained political independence in June 1976. In terms of nationhood, therefore, we are barely four years old. These four brief years, however, have been more significant in shaping the destiny of the Seychellois nation than the two centuries of its colonial history.

In the space of four years the Seychelles have been transformed from a mere appendage of a World War British Empire to a country with a political will of its own.

The colonial period in Seychelles left a legacy of institutions more adapted to the needs of colonial domination than to the fulfilment of the aspirations of the Seychellois people.

It was inevitable, therefore, that the first years of nationhood should be devoted to the task of evolving structures of government more suited to the development effort and to the need for self expression by the Seychellois people.

This task is by no means completed but it is an essential phase in our post-independence development.

We believe that development can only be sustained if we proceed from a firm base and for this reason we are anxious that the structures which we set in place respond to the needs of the situation. Since the establishment of a socialist Republic after the introduction of the June 5th 1977, my government has actively pursued a programme of reforms aimed at ensuring greater social justice and equality of opportunities for all Seychellois.

The system of education was one of our primary targets in this respect.

The elitist system of education evolved during the colonial era was, perhaps, the major factor contributing to the perpetuation of a social stratification system based on levels of affluence.

A two-tier system catering separately for the rich and the poor was a firmly entrenched feature of education in the Seychelles.

If a child came from a relatively affluent family he was enrolled, often before his birth, into a fee paying school which paved the way for a higher standard of education.

A child from a poor family, on the other hand, attended a free government school in his village which provided a lower standard of education thus setting him immediately at a disadvantage.

This system designed to ensure that social mobility was reduced to the minimum and that privileges enjoyed by the rich were effectively safeguarded for future generations was by no means peculiar to the Seychelles.

It is, in fact, a basic feature of any capitalist economy.

Consequently we regarded the task of democratizing the educational process to be one of the key areas of action in our plan to progress towards a socialist society.

During the brief period since our revolution we have virtually accomplished the task of devising and introducing a single education system through which every child, irrespective of social background, can go.

This task was not an easy one to tackle.

The cost of upgrading school buildings and of providing teaching personnel of a suitable calibre has severely stretched our limited resources. In retrospect, however, we are convinced that the investment was justified and that it will contribute towards the establishment of a more equitable society in the future.

Our health services have also suffered from a deliberately socially divisive policy. A dual system of medical care providing a free government service to the poor on one hand and commercialised private medical care for the relatively more affluent on the other served to drive a further wedge in the fabric of our society. Our national health plan introduced last year sought to rectify this situation by phasing out private medical practice and introducing a unitary system of health care providing an equal standard of service to every citizen irrespective of his level of affluence. The plan also sought to decentralise health services and to provide a uniform coverage throughout the Republic in place of the highly centralised service which existed previously.

Another area which called for urgent attention was the need to correct decades of inactivity in the field of housing construction. The problem is massive and it is not one where we can hope to have an immediate impact. We have inherited a situation of substandard houses and unplanned estates and the size of the investment required to correct these and to keep pace with the needs of a growing population will inevitably require a plan of action phased over an extended period.

Politically, the Republic of Seychelles remains firmly committed to pursue an active policy of genuine non-alignment. The world cannot afford to be divided into power blocs.

Such a trend is bound to lead to increased polarisation between power blocs with the inevitability of an eventual confrontation on a global scale of proportions yet unknown during the history of mankind.

In the Indian Ocean we are deeply concerned with the rapid escalation of foreign military forces in the region. An unprecedented growth in the foreign military presence in the region has taken place in recent years and our calls to turn the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace in accordance with wishes of the peoples of the area and in conformity with the United Nations Assembly resolutions on the subject have so far fallen on deaf ears. We cannot continue to live under the threat of a nuclear holocaust. Diplomatic activity must be intensified in order to ensure the speedy withdrawal of all foreign military presence from the Indian Ocean.

Only then will the countries of the region be able to devote their full attention to the urgent task of improving the standard of living of their own citizens without any threat to their security.

In order to achieve this objective, however, it is imperative that the non-aligned movement is developed into an effective organisation capable of concerting the activities of its members and of intervening in cases where peace is being threatened through the activities of the great powers. The salvation of mankind depends on a strong non-aligned movement and every effort must be made in order to ensure that the movement is developed into an organisation capable of responding to the challenge of a rapidly evolving situation.

The continuing stalemate in the efforts to achieve the peaceful reunification of Korea is another issue which continues to be a matter of grave concern to the Seychellois people. The initiatives undertaken by the DPRK in this respect have the full and unequivocal support of the Seychellois people. Recent events which led to the establishment of a fascist military regime in south Korea have unfortunately cast a shadow on prospects for national reunification.

In Seychelles we have expressed our condemnation of the new bloodthirsty regime in Seoul which has already claimed the lives of thousands of innocent people protesting against its oppressive rule. Shortly after the infamous Kwangju genocidal operation in May the government of Seychelles severed diplomatic ties with the "government" of Chon Du Hwan. Oppression however, can never last. Tyrants inevitably bow down in the face of popular rejection sooner or later as we witnessed on so many occasions in recent years. I am consequently optimistic that the fascist regime in Seoul will not last and that it may, hopefully, be replaced by a government which responds more readily to the aspirations of the people of south Korea.

Only then can any meaningful progress be made towards the attainment of the ultimate objective of peaceful reunification of Korea. The people of Seychelles will, in the meantime, continue to support initiatives aimed at national reunification and condemn imperialist manoeuvres to drive a wedge between the Korean people in an attempt to perpetuate the myth of the "two Koreas." Respected Comrade President, it is a great pleasure for me to be in Pyongyang once again. I hope that during my brief stay in your great country it will be possible for me and members of my delegation to learn more about your beautiful country and of the achievements of the Korean people under your leadership.

I hope that my visit will further consolidate the friendship which already exists between our two peoples and that we may be able to expand our cooperation to cover other areas to our mutual advantage.

May I now propose a toast to the health of the great leader of the Korean people Comrade President Kim Il Sung, to the further growth of friendship between the peoples of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Seychelles, to the peaceful reunification of Korea and to the health of everyone present here tonight.

Thanks. **(KCNA)**

Most Effective Medicare System

The population of the DPRK is most effectively free from any epidemics or endemics thanks to a nationwide completely-free medicare system, while south Korea has recently reported a number of cholera cases.

What characterizes the DPRK's medicare program is the absence of any cashiers at the hospitals, immediate access to any modern treatment and preventive medicine.

Under universal and completely-state-financed medical treatment system, people can receive proper medical treatment regardless of their occupation, age, sex, residential quarters and social status.

Of course people need not pay a penny for their treatment; a diagnosis, an experimental check-up, a treatment, an operation, a periodical check-up, a vaccination and baby delivery. Moreover, the state bears fares for a trip to hospitals and sanatoriums, no matter where they are located.

Modernly-equipped hospitals and sanatoriums are built throughout the country.

Thus far, preventive medicine proved dramatically effective as all doctors are in charge of particular residential quarters. In other words, doctors visit patients periodically in the DPRK.

The average times medical service was extended to the people in 1979 was 18.4 times. The beneficial medical techniques are combine oriental medicine and new medicine.

The death rate in 1979 was 4.4 persons per 1,000, the lowest over the world. (Japan 6.3; Canada, 7.4; U.S., 8.9; France, 10.5; East Germany, 12.1; Holland, 8.3; Sweden, 10.8)

The average life span of the DPRK was 73 years old. (south Korea, 63 for males, 69 females Japan, 73, 78; India, 42, 41; Thai, 54, 59; Czechoslovakia, 67, 74; U.S. 70, 77; Canada, 70, 76; Austria, 68, 75; Denmark, 71 ,77; Finland, 67, 76; France, 69, 77; England, 70, 76)

As of the end of 1979, the doctors numbered 23.3 per 10,000 and the number of beds in hospitals, 120.

In the pre-liberation years the death rate was 20.8 per 1,000 persons; and the number of times people see doctors a year was 0.93 in cities and 0.09 in rural areas.

It is reported that the number of patients who suffered from epidemics was about 163,400 in 1979 in one province-south Kyongsang Province; tubeculosis patients, more than one million (of them, 800,000 are said to be in a very serious condition), patients of venereal diseases, more than 1,600,000, cancer distomasis patients, several millions, helmin-thiasis, about 20,000,000; patients of occupational diseases, 70 per cent of workers. It is also reported that about 100,000 die of tuberculosis and its patients are increasing by 100,000 every year.

The health budget in south Korea is only 0.7-1 per cent of the whole budget of the state. (The amount of charges for epidemic prevention this year is only 145 won on the average)

From February this year, prices of medicine jumped 30 per cent (some medicine, 67 per cent) Fee of a simple diagnosis is 1,600 won; medical treatment fee for cold, 5,500; treatment by a surgery, 20,000 won.

Health workers visit residents periodically to check up their health.

The newly built Pyongyang Maternity Hospital

Joint Communique on Seychelles President Visit to DPRK

A joint communique on the result of the visit of France Albert Rene, President of the Republic of Seychelles, to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was made public in Pyongyang on September 23.

Follows the full text of the joint communique:

At the invitation of Comrade Kim Il Sung, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Comrade France Albert Rene, Chairman of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front and President of the Republic of Seychelles, paid an official goodwill visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from September 19 to 23, 1980.

During their stay in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea President France Albert Rene and his party visited Mangyongdae and inspected industrial establishments, cooperative farms and educational and cultural institutions in Pyongyang and South Hamgyong Province.

In this course the Korean people accorded President France Albert Rene and his party a warm welcome and hospitality everywhere they went, expressing high respect and warm friendship for them.

During the visit talks were held between Comrade Kim Il Sung, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Comrade France Albert Rene, Chairman of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front and President of the Republic of Seychelles.

Present there on the Korean side were Vice-President Pak Sung Chul, Vice-Premier Chong Jun Gi, Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army O Guk Ryol, Vice-Premier Kong Jin Tae, Chairman of the Education Commission Kim Il Dae, and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Li Jong Mok.

Present on the Seychellois side were M. Servina, Assistant Secretary-General and Member of Central Committee of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front and Minister for Transport and Tourism; and James Michel, Member of Central Committee of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front, Minister for Education and Information and Chief of Staff of the Seychelles People's Liberation Army.

At the talks which proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the two sides informed each other of the situation of their respective countries, exchanged views on the problem of further expanding and developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and other problems of common concern and reached a complete unanimity of views on all problems discussed.

The two sides pointed with satisfaction to the daily developing excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between Korea and Seychelles.

The Korean side warmly hailed the great successes made by the Seychellois people in the struggle to liquidate the consequences of the colonial rule, consolidate the political and economic independence of the country, reform the educational and public health system and establish an advanced social system under which all people are equally well-off since the victorious June 5, 1977, revolution carried out under the correct leadership of President France Albert Rene, their outstanding leader, and wished them greater progress in the carrying out of their future cause of building a socialist society.

The Korean side denounced the imperialists for plundering resources and reinforcing the military power in the Indian Ocean and expressed full support to the just demand of the Republic of Seychelles for the withdrawal of the foreign troops and foreign military bases from the Indian Ocean and its conversion into a peace zone, and manifested firm solidarity with its struggle.

The Seychellois side warmly congratulated the Korean people on having converted their country into a powerful and rich, independent socialist country in a brief period by embodying the Juche idea in all fields of the revolution and construction under the correct leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and wished them greater successes in carrying out the Second Seven-Year Plan.

The Seychellois side denounced the "two Koreas" plot of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges to perpetuate the division of Korea and wholly supported the three principles and five-point policy for national reunification put forward by Comrade President Kim Il Sung and strongly held that all foreign troops present in south Korea should completely withdraw at an early date.

The Korean side highly estimated as a just and revolutionary, valiant step the decision of the Government of the Republic of Seychelles to break off diplomatic relations with south Korea in denunciation of the south Korean military fascists' brutal suppression and slaughter of south Korean people.

The two sides stressed in unison that in order to prevent the danger of a new war and guarantee world peace and security under the complicated and tense situation prevailing in the international area today, the non-aligned countries, the third world countries should make efforts in firm unity under the uplifted banner of sovereignty, independence and non-alignment for the dissolution of all military blocs, the withdrawal of foreign troops and foreign military bases from the territories of other countries, the creation of nuclear-free zones and peace zones in many places of the world and the establishment of a new international economic order.

The two sides pointed out with satisfaction that the visit of Comrade France Albert Rene, President of the Republic of Seychelles, to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea this time following his first official visit in May 1978 marked an epochal occasion in further expanding and developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the Korean and Seychellois peoples and made a great contribution to strengthening friendship and solidarity among the Asian and African peoples and the peoples of the non-aligned countries.

Comrade France Albert Rene expressed deep thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the Korean people for the warm and fraternal welcome and hospitality accorded them during their stay in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

—By Tokyo Univ. Prof. Seki Hiroharu—

'DPRK As I Saw It' (4)

Coal Motive Power of Economic Development

(Continued from the previous issue)

The DPRK has successfully developed its economy in an original way. What is the motive power of its economic development? This question was most puzzling to us, seven scholars.

As I already pointed out, a key to the DPRK's development is education to which the country attaches great importance. Of course, both the quantity and quality of education must be considered. What characterize the education system of the DPRK are: the quantity and the high-quality of the compulsory education, the quantity of higher education, including university education, the life-long education program, and emphasis on practical knowledge — oriental science and technology.

How education contribute to its scientific and technological development is shown by a look at its scientific and technological level.

The DPRK is now trying to develop independently and fully exploit the type of technology to fit its specific needs and conditions.

The DPRK views it as a central task to train software computer engineers, even its computer technology is in embryo.

In short, the country intends to develop hardware and software computer technology simultaneously in a well-balanced way of development.

In the DPRK we can hardly find any particular section of the national economy which is abnormally developed. A typical case in point is establishment of the chemical industry based on locally available coal deposits. Vinalon, a kind of synthetic fibre made from limestone and anthracite, may be called a product of the DPRK's independent and well-balanced technological development.

The Japanese colonialists left behind in the country some power stations and a certain level of coal-liquefaction technique. However, they were all completely destroyed during the Korean War (1950-1953).

So far, developed countries economically and technically aided many developing countries. However, most of the recipient countries have failed to establish their own independent economies.

The DPRK developed its thermal power generation and chemical industry independently, using its rich domestic coal deposits.

The DPRK is the only country that has succeeded in developing the coal-based chemical industry different from the petrochemical industry of the Western countries. There is no denying that this success has been brought about by the efforts to develop potential power for independent scientific and technical development. At its basis is the practical-knowledge-oriented education.

No Match to President KIM IL SUNG

Why does President Kim Il Sung take such a great position in this country? An answer to this question is clear in terms of politics.

Kim Il Sung was a dynamic leader of the revolutionary movements in 1930s for the liberation of Korea. Many material about his activities in this period are exhibited in the Revolution Museum (Pyongyang). Things what attracted my attention are documents of the Government-General of Korea, a Japanese colonial government, exhibited together with handwritten documents of President Kim Il Sung.

Since they were property of the Government-General of Korea, we can hardly find these materials even in Japanese diplomatic records. Specialist of Japanese diplomacy do not use this kind of materials when they write a history of Japanese diplomacy. They think diplomacy is a completely different matter from an internal affair.

Maybe we can not obtain some of these materials in Japan. Even if they are in Japan, it will be very difficult to find out them. The Japanese diplomatic history after 1910s does not include important parts relating to Korea. History of policies to China and Manchuria is treated with a serious bias. The history of the Manchurian Incident must be entirely rewritten in view of these materials in the DPRK.

In "Prior to the Manchurian Incident", the first in a series of books "Way to Pacific War" which was published by the Asahi Shimbun in early 1960s, I stressed the importance of the Korean people's independence struggles in Chientao, northeast China, just before the Liutiaokou Incident. (On Sep. 18, 1931 the south Manchurian railway was bombed by Japanese terrorists.)

These struggles have been ignored by Japanese historians of the Manchurian Incident. When I saw materials about President Kim Il Sung at the Revelution Museum, I realized that the history of the Korean people's struggles for national liberation could be substantially supplemented.

Leadership of Kim Il Sung of revolutionary movements became a legend of national foundation to liberate the country from the Japanese colonial rule and to establish a new state.

The status of President Kim Il Sung in the DPRK is self-evident with the materials alone left by the Government-General of Korea.

He has not only guided the people in revolutionary struggles but also has taken an active part in the construction of the country. For example, I took the leadership in the construction of Kim Il Sung University. We saw a picture showing the President and a few instructors from Seoul University in south Korea standing shoulder to shoulder on the field without any building and student.

Moreover, the President showed up on construction sites of steel works, shipyards, farms, nurseries and children's palaces. Even after the completion of these establishments, he repeatedly visited them to give on-the-spot guidance.

Perhaps because the country had a small population of 17 million, he has succeeded in leading nation-building in person. However, it is nevertheless the President alone who have participated in almost all construction works, personally visiting various construction sites, isn't it?

It can be said that President Kim Il Sung is the leader in nation-bearing and nation-building. In addition, he was once a commander-in-chief of the Korean People's Army during the Korean War.

Considering these facts, Syngman Rhee, Pak Jung Hi and Chon Du Hwan are no match to President Kim Il Sung.

Talking to many people of the DPRK we were compelled to think that these people whole-heartedly call the President "respected and beloved leader." (To be continued)

The DPRK has developed a coal-based chemical industry with use of locally available coal deposits unlike the Western countries. The Feb. 8 Vinalon Complex in S. Hamgyong Province is one of main chemical industrial bases of the country. It turns out many kinds of chemical products including vinalon, the DPRK's original chemical fibre made with limestone and anthracite. Photo shows a part of the spinning shop of the Feb. 8 Vinalon Complex.

Statement on North-South Contact

The working-level delegation of the DPRK side for the arrangement of the north-south premiers' contact made public the following statement on September 24, according to a KCNA report:

Authorized by the Premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the working-level delegation of the north side for the arrangement of the north-south premiers' contact states as follows:

As is known, the contact between the working-level delegates for the arrangement of the contact between the premiers of the two sides has been conducted, as part of multilateral contact, between the north and south on the initiative of our side.

Originally, the dialogue started with the lofty aim of putting an end to the 35-year-long tragedy of national split and accelerating the reunification of the country, the unanimous, cherished desire of the whole nation.

We have made all sincere efforts to successfully advance the contact between the working-level delegates of the two sides in conformity with this aim and, even under an abnormal circumstance in which a complex situation has been created whithin the ruling quarters of south Korea, the other party to the dialogue, continued contact with them out of the single desire to open a new phase in the peaceful reunification of the country.

But, an intolerable, grave situation going against the fundamental idea of the dialogue and contradictory to the desire of the whole nation for peaceful reunification has been created of late in south Korea by the new fascist rulers.

A large number of democratic figures and patriots calling for peaceful reunification are arrested, imprisoned and penalized and the desire for peaceful reunification is totally suppressed.

Under the direct direction of the south Korean rulers, the party to the dialogue, a big organised racket inciting antagonism and confrontation within the nation and slandering the DPRK is being kicked up throughout south Korea and the nation-splitting manoeuvers seeking "two Koreas" policy are stepped up in a more undisguised way.

Kim Dae Jung and other democratic figures of all strata and students who were illegally condemned to capital punishment and heavy penalties recently at the military court are precisely the direct victims of the nation-splitting manoeuvers of the military fascist group which have gone to extremes.

By holding a murderous trial of Kim Dae Jung and other democratic figures, it is openly repeating the crime of the former dictator who tried to murder Kim Dae Jung by kidnapping him from Japan in August 1973.

What is all the more intolerable in connection with the present south Korean situation is the brutal nation-butchery of the military fascists – slaughtering in cold blood fellow countrymen of the same blood.

By invoking an "emergency martial law" the south Korean military-fascist group has turned the whole of south Korea into a terrible land where human rights are trampled underfoot, bestially suppressed and slaughtered thousands of Kwangju people 'by a semi-war method by mobilizing large regular army units, tanks and even armoured cars and committed the thrice-cursed atrocity of drenching the city of resistance with the blood of fellow countrymen, brothers and sisters.

Now in south Korea all people are regarded as the enemy of the fascist military rule and exposed to the danger of being buried socio-politically and physically at any time according to the will of the rulers.

In south Korea there is no one who does not fall a victim to the military fascist dictatorship among the workers, peasants, religionists, men of the press, professors, students and even public officials, to say nothing of conscientious politicians, except the military fascist group carrying swords.

As fellow countrymen and a party to the dialogue, we have no intention to make any slightest compromise with the anti-national crimes due to which everything patriotic and aspiring after democracy and reunification is stifled and our brothers and sisters are shedding blood and being penalized in south Korea.

Much less can we overlook the fact that the splittist and fascist crimes are committed in south Korea by connecting things with us under the fabricated "threat of southward invasion."

The "emergency martial law" which placed the whole land of the south into a suffocating state was expanded against us with the cry about the "invasion of the north," the massacre of Kwangju citizens committed against us under the pretext that their action may be "used by the north" and the political trial of Kim Dae Jung was also held by connecting him with us under the pretext that he was "sympathetic with the north". All these despicable acts are evidently a challenge to us and premeditated acts designed to wreck the north-south dialogue.

In our contact with the south Korean side we have warned more than once that these criminal acts lay a grave obstacle in the way of the north-south dialogue and reunification. Nevertheless, they are going further along the way of treachery, far from repenting of their crimes. This shows the world that they have no intention to have the dialogue or achieve reunification.

The prevailing situation clearly shows that we cannot have a dialogue with the military fascist group of south Korea which, having lost reason, is brandishing only the bayonet, no matter how much we desire it, and even if we sit face to face with it, a dialogue connot be one for reunification.

The criminals denounced by the whole nation and the world must be treated as criminals.

We have no idea of taking the blood-stained hands of the butchers who pursue the permanent division of the nation and murdered compatriots at the sacred conference table nor intention to regard them as the party to our dialogue.

Considering that it is meaningless to continue the contact between the working-level delegates for the arrangement of the north-south premiers' contact today when an abnormal situation going against the reunification and contradictory to the fundamental aim of the dialogue is prevailing in south Korea, we clarify our stand that we will not go to the place of dialogue for the time being till everything has returned normal in south Korea.

The responsibility for having led to a grave difficulty the contact between the working-level delegates for the north-south premiers' contact which was arranged with so much efforts and rests entirely with the south Korean military fascist group seeking fascism, confrontation and division.

Hoping that the contact between the working-level delegates of the north and south will be resumed at an early date to arrange the premiers' contact, we will keep watching developments in south Korea for that day.

Fukuda's Seoul Visit: New Seoul-Tokyo Connection

Amid mounting world-wide criticisms of a south Korean court-martial's death sentence for dissident leader Kim Dae Jung, former Japanese prime minister Fukuda visited south Korea from September 24 to 26, holding a series of talks with high-ranking south Korean officials including new strongman Chon Du Hwan.

The aim of the influential pro-Seoul Japanese politician was to sound Seoul's policy toward Tokyo after the foundation of the new junta led by Chon and to reestablish the ties of Seoul-Tokyo collusion which had been cut due to the arrest of former president of the Democratic Republican Party Kim Jong Pil and Li Fu Rak. Therefore, his visit clearly shows Tokyo's intention to back up the Chon junta set on liquidating Kim Dae Jung, ignoring its responsibility for the "political settlement" of the Kim kidnap case which occurred in 1973.

In his talks with Seoul's new leaders including Chon, Prime Minister Nam Duk U, and Foreign Minister Ro Sin Yong, Fukuda, from beginning to end, expressed a "better understanding" of Seoul's attitude toward the court martial's decision on Kim Dae Jung and completely accepted Seoul's position on the Kim Dae Jung case, which is widely denounced by the world public.

On September 25, Chon Du Hwan talked with Fukuda, and hoped Japan would take a cool-headed attitude and calmly watch the situation in south Korea including the trial of Kim, emphasizing the matter was a south Korean internal affair and a problem for the south Korean judiciary to decide on.

In response to Chon's remarks on Kim's case, in a press conference given on Sep. 26 on his return home, Fukuda stressed the need to step up cooperative relations among Japan, the United States and south Korea, saying that the Japanese government should wait and see what happens to Kim Dae Jung, and that it should try to take care not to irritate Seoul in improving relations with it.

Fukuda's above-mentioned statement is reflected in the official attitude of the Japanese government.

On the same day when Fukuda met Chon, prime minister Suzuki, speaking before members of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, said that the trial of Kim Dae Jung by a court martial was an internal affair and that the Japanese government had no intention of interfering in it. Suzuki denied his previous statement made in a NHK TV interview that the government would suspend economic assistance to south Korea if Kim should be executed.

Before Fukuda's departure for south Korea, the Japanese government had to decide on whether it should regard the Kim Dae Jung case as an isolated matter or as a matter affecting the Tokyo-Seoul relations as a whole. As a result, it decided to regard it as the former matter, thinking that if the government decided otherwise, the Seoul government would be annoyed.

The Japanese government feared that the Chon junta's feelings would have a negative effect on Japan's relations with Seoul, especially in connection with bilateral economic cooperation which is vital to both the junta and pro-Seoul politicians.

Fukuda's visit completed a round of visits of influential pro-Seoul Japanese politicians in the past month.

From August 15 to September 26, over 30 Japanese politicians both from the ruling and opposition parties visited Seoul under the pretext of "official visits" or "inspection of the political situation" to bolster the Chon junta. Those who had visited include: Kanamaru Shin, former Director General of the Defense Agency; Minowa Noboru, former deputy secretary of the Defense Agency; Kasuga Ikko, advisor to the Democratic Socialist Party; Hasegawa Shun, former Minister of Labor; and Kishi Nobusuke, former prime minister and president of the Japan-Korea Cooperative Committee.

A series of visits by these and other Japanese politicians clearly showed their intention to establish new shady connections with the Chon junta, now that they have their contacts broken after the arrest of Kim Jong Pil and Li Fu Rak.

As for Fukuda, he is believed by foreign diplomats here to be the most influential pro-Seoul lobbyist after Kishi retired as an active pro-Seoul lobbyist.

Reportedly, when he was inaugurated as prime minister in December 1976, many south Korean Dietmen visited Japan and struggled among themselves to win Fukuda's support. Before the Miki Cabinet resigned en bloc, many delegations of south Korean parliamentarians visited Japan and extended positive support for a new Fukuda Cabinet. When Fukuda was inaugurated as prime minister, they drunk in celebration of his inauguration and returned to Seoul in high spirits. (The January 18, 1976 issue of the Mainichi Shimbun) Also, it is rumored Fukuda will be appointed as President of the Japan-Korea Parliamentarians' Federation.

Referring to the merits of ties with Fukuda for Chon Du Hwan, Yamakawa Asao, a commentator on political affairs, said that "The Chon Du Hwan regime needs a Japanese politician who plays the role of a top pro-Seoul lobbyist to succeed former prime minister Kishi. Such a pro-Seoul lobbyist must be a man who can assert his influence on the majority Liberal Democratic Party and the Suzuki Cabinet. In this respect, Fukuda is an influential politician who can meet Chon Du Hwan's purposes."

By Chae Jun

Meanwhile, the Chon junta utilized Fukuda's visit as an opportunity to get a promise of a vast amount of Japanese economic aid from him to give a shot in the arm of the ailing south Korean economy. It also intended to utilize Fukuda to create an impression among the south Korean people that Seoul is not quarantined.

Even a certain official of the Japanese Foreign Ministry criticized Fukuda's visit to Seoul, saying, "At the talks, the Chon Du Hwan side, threatening to disclose acts of Seoul-Tokyo collusion, earnestly demanded economic aid." He also said, "If the world public says a new Seoul-Tokyo connection has been established since many pro-Seoul politicians have successively visited Seoul at this critical moment, that can not be helped. The government intends to maintain 'friendly relations' with a regime which is plotting to liquidate a political foe by a military tribunal. This will have a negative influence on the national interests of Japan. The Japanese government failed to protect Kim Dae Jung's human rights when he was kidnapped from Tokyo. This has something to do with the fact that he now faces execution. I don't understand why influential pro-Seoul politicians including Fukuda have visited Seoul."

Final Statements of 12 Defendants

Followings are the gists of the final statements made by 17 defendants at Seoul's court-martial held on September 12:

KIM ROK YONG, President of the Democratic Unification Party:

As a politician, I feel a great deal of responsibility for the students' uprising. In accordance with my conviction, I made considerable efforts for a peaceful transfer of power and I had no intention of violating any martial law decrees specified in the indictment.

LI TAEK SONG, a member of the New Democratic Party:

I had never conferred with Mr. Kim Dae Jung on any plot to overthrow the "government." Also, I had no intention to hold an unlawful assembly.

HAN WAN SANG, professor at Seoul National University:

I feel that I am facing a historical court. On May 12, my mother was dead, and three days later I returned home after attending her funeral. In the evening on May 17, after returning home I attended a prayer meeting and was arrested at 10 P.M. I don't know why I was arrested.

LI HAE DONG, a pastor:

As a pastor, I am very ashamed of a false confession I was forced to make while I was under investigation. Though I told an examining official that I would rather die than make a false confession, I was compelled to do so, as I had been given hard blows for several days. As meat was applied to my injuries to heal them, my underwear was dyed in blood. I always pray earnestly that our country will become a nation of justice and democracy.

HAN SUNG HON, a lawyer and head of the Korea Branch of the Amnesty International:

It is very cynical that we, who had been demanding the democratization of society, were arrested by the "government" which had pledged to establish a democratic society. We criticized the "government" because we love our country. The cause of the recent social confusion is to be sought in the fact that the people had no freedom to criticize the "government." The prosecutor alleges that we tried to violate the Censorship Law because we published some books relating to Mr. Kim. But we had no need for censorship because we had not yet published any of such books.

KIM JONG WAN, President of the Democratic Constitutional Fellowships:

As a Christian, I am ashamed of making a false confession, violating the Ten Commandments. When the prosecutor demanded death for Mr. Kim on the basis of my false confession, I trembled with fear. When I was being investigated, I was given hard blows without any reason and investigation officials forced me to admit that I had intended to instigate a mass uprising in response to Mr. Kim's call. I wrote my statement as I was told by the examining officials.

SOL HUN, a reinstated student of Seoul National University:

I would like to pay tribute to those who were killed in the Kwangju incident. People gave guns to the soldiers because they wanted the military to protect their property and lives. Nevertheless, the soldiers killed our brothers and sisters. Since then, I have not regarded this "government" as ours. But, I had no intention at all to restore democracy by violence. I only thought that the authorities would put an end to martial law if we staged a peaceful demonstration. We are willing to die. If I die, the country could be saved from this crisis. The "present government" must disclose its own wrongdoings and resign en bloc.

KIM SUNG GI WON, a reinstated student of Chung-Ang University:

I would like to apologize from the bottom of my hear to our respected poet Ko Un and Mr. Kim Dae Jung whom I had never met, for the fact that I made a false confession about them. The counsels asked the court to release us, but I'd not like the counsels to do so. What I'd like to ask is that the "government" should make an apology for faking up the charges, and should immediately release us.

LI SOK KYUN, a reinstated student of Chung-Ang University:

When I was under examination, I was beaten all through the night. I am ashamed of the fact that I made a false confession according as the examining officials told me, when even such an old man as Mr. Mun Ik Hwan refused to do so and staged a hunger strike in protest.

LI HAE CHAN, a reinstated student of Seoul National University:

Under severe torture, I made a false confession. Therefore, I was an accomplice in the plot to liquidate a politician. My heart is bursting with shame. I am ashamed of the fact that I did not refuse a false statement at the risk of my life in order to prolong my life.

CHO SONG U, a reinstated student of Koryo University and President of the Democratic Youth Council:

The May demonstration was a reasonable act of the people. The people wanted the students to act on their behalf, because neither labor unions nor political parties failed to fulfill their original duties. The charges against the students were faked up. For example, I was not in the demonstration of May 8. That day was Mother's Day. As I had not met her during the past eight months, I was with her until the afternoon. I demand a just trial.

KIM SANG JIN, a former member of the New Democratic Party and director of the Korean Institute of Political and Cultural Affairs:

I had never met Chong Dong Nyon. According to the indictment, he was a student in Kwangju and received funds from Mr. Kim Dae Jung after being introduced to me. But this is untrue. We demanded the prosecutors summon him for examination and have him take the witness stand. It is regrettable that the presiding judge turned down the demand.

LI SIN BOM, a reinstated student of Seoul National University:

For two days, I was beaten hard and they trod on my nails. An examining officer put a stick between my legs and wrenched my legs. Before I was taken into court, I was forced to rehearsed my statement in court.

KO UN, a poet and President of the Free Practice Writers' Council:

I refuse to make a final statement. Because I am sick, I'd like to give my time to other defendants. My only wish is to spend all the rest of my life in prison and to die a peaceful death there. I'd like to pay my respects to those killed in the Kwangju incident.

YE CHUN HO, a member of the NDP, chief of the secretaries to Mr. Kim Dae Jung:

I had no intention to make a final statement, but I changed my mind as I was upset by the death sentence demanded for Mr. Kim. I don't care however long I may be put in prison. But this man should never be sentenced to death by a political trial. Under any circumstances, Mr. Kim's life must be saved.

LI MUN YONG, professor at Koryo University:

My confession is not valid because it was made under compulsion. I will continue praying God for Mr. Kim Dae Jung and the examining officials who gave a severe beating. Also, I will continue to regret all my life for the false statement I made under severe torture.

HAN SE WOO, honorary professor at Hanguk Theological College and Chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the National Union for Democracy and National Unification:

Though "president" Chon Du Hwan says that he will work for social justice, this task can not be achieved by the president himself in accordance with his idea or intention. It will be achieved only by the people themselves. Social justice should be established on the basis of democratic institutions. Our act is not a revolt but a movement for democracy. My mother is eighty six years old. It is a pity that I will not be by the deathbed of my mother.

S. Korean Monthly "Sin Tong-A"

Scenes of Labor Disputes (3)

(Continued from the previous issue)

Companies try to close the channels of dialogue between labor and management and handle labor-management relations arbitrarily. This attitude of management is one of the major reasons for intensified labor disputes.

Further, trade union executives are either company union leaders or labor aristocrats. This is another reason for labor disputes. Trade union executives should play their role by acting for the interests of workers and by trying to maintain equal relations between management and workers.

The direct cause of the dispute at the Dongwon Consolidated Coal Mining should be found in the above-mentioned situation.

Abusing Paragraph 5, Article 3 of the Labor Union Organization Law to emasculate trade unions and prevent establishment of autonomous trade unions, companies took the initiative in organizing trade unions, without the knowledge of workers.

In such a case, principal employees of a company are appointed executives and members of the union. Thus, a bogus trade union is organized.

*Around 500 workers of the Taeyang Metal Ind. Co., Ltd. on Apr. 28 staged a sit-in in the office, demanding a 40% wage hike and reorganization of the trade union into workers' trade union. The trade union of workers in the Taeyang Metal Ind. Co., Ltd. is affiliated with the Seoul branch of the Korean Metal Workers Union. O Rak Kyun, director of its business department, served as chairman of the Taeyang Metal Company's trade union last year. At present, the post is held by Li Bong Sun, chief of the marketing section of the company. The trade union is composed of directors, section chiefs of the company, though its employees number some 900. The union plays the role of watching workers rather than improving their working conditions.

*The trade union of workers in the Poong Sung Electric Co., Ltd. affiliated with the Seoul branch of the Korean Metal Workers Union is also a bogus union. The workers of the company were left uninformed of its formation. The signboard of the union is nowhere to be found. No conference of the union has been held. As in the case of the Taeyang Metal Ind. Co., Ltd., the union of this company is composed of its leading members and managerial officers.

In this way, the Seoul branch of the Korean Metal Workers' Union is known as an aggregation of such bogus trade unions.

Since the Sabuk incident, workers' principal demands have been for resignation of company-patronized union executives and reorganization of trade unions.

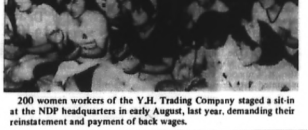
Follow some examples:

*600 workers of the Ilsin Steel Co., Ltd. in Seoul on Apr. 25 put down their tools and staged a sit-in, demanding a 40% wage raise and a 400% bonus. They shouted, "Yu Kap Sik, company-patronized union boss, should resign."

*About 550 workers of the Tong Yang Talc Mine of the Il Shin Ind. Co., Ltd. (Chungwon county, North Chungchong Prov.) on Apr. 24 demanded a raise in bonus payments, price-covering and pit work allowances, elimination of discrimination between office workers and pit workers, dissolution of the company-protected trade union. They decided to continue the walkout until their demands were met.

*350 workers of the Dae Dong Chemical Co., Ltd. on Apr. 15 staged an all-night sit-in in the mess room of the company, demanding resignation of the executives of the company union and a 150% bonus, which was in arrears of payments.

*About 3,000 workers of the Anyang Works of the Kumsung Communications Company on Apr. 29 staged a sit-in in the auditorium and on the playground of the company, demanding a 35% wage hike and resignation of the executives of their trade union.



200 women workers of the Y.H. Trading Company staged a sit-in at the NDP headquarters in early August, last year, demanding their reinstatement and payment of back wages.

*Workers of the Pusan Mill of the Dong Kuk Steel Mill Co., waged a sit-in, submitting a 9-point demand. Their demands included discontinuation of a stop to obstructing the workers' efforts to form a trade union, a wage increase, improved working conditions, enforcement of a progressive retirement allowance system, abolition of discrimination between mine workers and office workers.

In order to settle the strike, the company sent its vice-president to Pusan. As he failed to prevent any proposal acceptable to workers, just trying to make the workers yield to the company's demand, the angered workers broke windowpanes and telephones and set fire to factory buildings.

Employers' manoeuvres aimed at obstructing trade union and at discouraging workers' union activities are not new at all.

Workers, who had been unwarrantedly dismissed for trade union activities, lodged demands for redress with the central labor relations commission.

The number of cases referred to the commission amounted to 68 in 1974, 100 in 1975, 103 in 1977, 178 in 1979 and 100 in the first four months of this year.

These cases concerned illegal labor acts committed by employers to trample down on labor's right to organize and are undeniable evidence of crude suppression by employers of the trade union movement in our country.

(To be continued)

SHORT STORY

Signalman First Class (2)

By Pak Wung Gol

(Continued from the previous issue)

"Communication is dead, and our company is done for. Already for four hours there had been no word."

It was obvious he was not talking to just himself. This was meant for others, particularly the line repairmen. Then, as if to drown out the adjutant, the platoon leader shouted louder: "Rakdong, Rakdong!" Looking at him—he had his right arm in bandage—hollowing at the top of his lungs into the transmitter—Nam Gil felt wretched. The adjutant, unable to stand any more, stepped out. Presently the platoon leader put down the receiver and said in a gentle voice that there was no use trying any more.

Nam Gil was so touched by the kind words of the platoon leader, tears came to his eyes.

Suddenly there was a bomb blast outside the tunnel. It was close by, Nam Gil thought. Dirt showered from the ceiling, and the light went out after a little flickering. The big tunnel was dark; there was silence for a moment.

The voice of the battalion commander was more resonant than ever; he was listening to a report by the orderly on the company.

"How much ammunition is there left?"

"There are 20 hand-grenades and two cartons of shells. The company commander said the enemy would likely try again. He needs reinforcement very badly, maybe in half an hour." The orderly answered.

"What is the news from the First Company?"

He wanted to know how the units were doing. Nam Gil felt as if his words were directed straight at him.

"I'm not sure. Somehow the enemy are hitting at the First Company today."

After the orderly was dismissed, the battalion commander lit a cigarette and asked the platoon leader if there was any news from the First Company. "No!" was the answer of the troubled platoon leader. Then he added—perhaps we should send another orderly.

Presently an orderly—the fifth one—was sent out. After he was gone, Nam Gil rose to his feet quietly.

"Well, platoon leader, I guess I'll get going, too."

"Oh, no, you won't. You'd better take a little rest now. You look rather pale, anyway. Wait until this orderly comes back."

"I know you sent an orderly out. But I've got to fix the lines."

Nam Gil was nineteen. But, maybe because of his uniform he looked more mature and dependable. The platoon leader tried to stop him.

"No, I think you'd better take it easy. You've been out more than seventy times already. What is the other line repairman doing? The First Company too has two men, doesn't it?"

That was the battalion commander.

The platoon leader answered: "Both of them have been wounded."

Nam Gil sat down again. Again everyone was silent. The battalion commander kept puffing at his cigarette—a smoke of rolled leaves. One smoke after another in a chain. Nam Gil knew he did that when he was working under a strain.

Exhausted as he was, Nam Gil could not go to sleep. He sat leaning against the wall with his eyes closed. He thought he heard a ringing sound; he opened his eyes. Maybe the phone was ringing. No. Again he closed his eyes; he could see the smoke covered ridge, electric poles cut in half, then his mother, who he heard had become a guerilla.

Suddenly someone called his name in a low voice, he looked up and saw an elderly-looking soldier standing before him. The soldier had been a stretcher bearer, but the previous day he was made a line repairman. He hailed from the same village as Nam Gil—Kwangyang in Cholla Province. This fact drew the two men closer to each other, and furthermore, he knew Nam Gil's mother. The new soldier was around forty; he had been a farmer and Nam Gil liked him for his simplicity. He reminded Nam Gil of the men of his home village.

"What's up?"

"I think I'll go out and have a look this time."

He spoke in a low voice so others would not hear him. Nam Gil told him it would do little good since he did not know how to connect the broken lines. Nam Gil remembered the man had asked him to take him, but Nam Gil had refused because the bombing was severe, and he felt there was no reason why this man should take the risk. That was not all. Nam Gil felt a sort of attachment for him and he wanted to spare him as much as he could. But the man did not agree.

"I can learn, can't I? You don't think much of me, do you? At the time of the Ryosu uprising I did my share. I did shooting, too. I am just sitting on pins and needles cooped up here at such difficult times."

He was quite determined, too. He stood up, ready to go. And Nam Gil knew he could not be pursuaded to sit still in the tunnel. Of course Nam Gil knew how a man in uniform feels when he has no assignment at the front while all others are fighting the enemy. Nothing can be more miserable than that. So he spoke to the platoon leader and they decided the man should be sent out. Nam Gil told him about the distribution of the telephone lines and gave a few tips on how to connect broken wires.

He explained that the wires are laid in triple lines connected at intervals, so if the enemy bombs cut one or two, the remaining line carries the messages through. He also explained to him about the precautionary measures he should take in an enemy raid. The man was much older than Nam Gil, maybe his father's age, but, feeling so uneasy, he repeated his instructions to him several times.

(To be continued)

Korean Paintings "Persimmon Tree" By Choe Kun Chol

Korean Cultural History (30)

Li Dynasty 15th-16th Centuries

(Continued from the previous issue)

In the latter half of the 14th century the feudal state of Koryo found its existence endangered by rapacious land expropriation by the feudal aristocrats, the extreme impoverishment of the people, consequent sharp class antagonisms, and by the collapse of the feudal ruling system.

Taking advantage of this crisis of the Koryo dynasty, a reformist group of aristocrats and landlords, represented by Li Song Gye, Chong Do Jon and others, overthrew the Koryo dynasty and established the Li dynasty in 1392.

Li Song Gye ascended the throne and was given posthumously the title of Taejo. Upon coming to power, the new rulers took a series of measures to solve complex problems at home and abroad. At that time the Ming rulers were attempting to topple the Li dynasty this or that way in the northwest, while Japan was making inroads into Korea one after another upon from the southeast.

In this situation it was urgently required of the Li dynasty to have a stronger army and navy. Then, the Li dynasty expropriated large numbers of *ryangin* (mostly tenant peasants) and nationalized all lands of the country.

While abolishing the private ownership of large holdings, the Li dynasty moved its capital city from Kaesong (the capital of the Koryo dynasty) to Hanyang (Seoul) and strengthened the centralization of the feudal government.

Recentralization of the feudal system provided the Li dynasty with a material foundation for keeping a fairly strong army at the time. Early in the 15th century, the feudal state of the Li dynasty strengthened its naval force by forming six naval stations along the southern coasts and building naval ports along the coasts of provinces.

Invention of Korean Alphabet

In this period, the feudal society came to be increasingly dominated by the ethical doctrines of Chu-tzi, which replaced Buddhism.

Buddhist monks were prominently reduced to the *chonmin* status (low-born people) and lands owned by temples were confiscated. These measures, however, were not effective. The monks managed to maintain their dominant status by cultivating those who supported the doctrines of Chu-tzi.

The induction of Chu-tzi doctrines of the Li dynasty, which later became the roots of flunkeyism.

Flunkeyism played a negative role in the development of an original culture in Korea and in its independent historical development.

The culture of the Li dynasty in the mid-15th century developed as a conflict between flunkeyism and some progressive forces.

In this period, remarkable progress was achieved in natural science, technology, philology and in the compilation of histories. In particular, the invention of the Korean alphabet *(Hunminjongum)* made a great contribution to the development of Korean culture.

The 16th century was marked by the waning of feudal centralism. As the private ownership of large holdings by the conservative aristocrats was permitted, the series of progressive landholding systems and social and political measures adopted by some progressive aristocrats began to collapse. At the same time, the downfall of the feudalistic ruling circles weakened feudalistic centralism.

Weakened Centralism Of Feudalistic Gov.

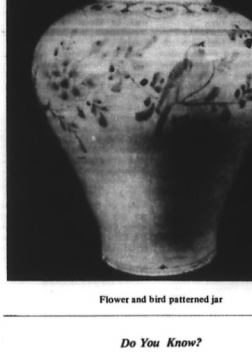
In this period, power struggles broke out within the ruling circles and developed into internecine factional strife.

In the latter half of the 16th century, factional strife developed between junior and senior officials. It was necessary for any official to associate himself with one faction or another. The senior group was led by Sim Ui Gyom, the Queen's brother and junior group was represented by Kim Hyo Won, leader of up-and-coming scholars. As Sim Ui Gyom's residence was in the west of Seoul, his group was called Westerners. As Kim's was in the east, Kim's known as Easterners.

The Easterners were split into Northerners (a radical faction) and Southerners (the moderate) and Westerners also split into two factions.

These factional conflicts further sapped the weakened feudalistic centralism. The defence system of the ground and navy forces began to fall apart.

Such condition continued until the Imjin Patriotic War in 1592 (the struggle against the Toyotomi Hideyoshi-led Japanese invasion), weakening beyond repair military establishments built since the 15th century. (To be continued)



Flower and bird patterned jar

Do You Know?

Climate, Rivers of Korea

Korea is located at the eastern end of the Asian continent protruding into the Pacific Ocean and its climate is continental and oceanic.

The climate of Korea is temperate and seasonal distinction is clear—spring, summer, autumn and winter.

The average annual temperature in Korea is 8° to 12°C and the mean annual precipitation is 1,000 mm-1,2000 mm. The temperature and humidity are good for human habitation.

In Korea seasonal winds blow and their directions are different according to the seasons.

In winter dry and cold north and northwest winds blow so that clear weather continues. In summer hot and damp south and southeast winds blow from the ocean so that rains come frequently.

The rainfall in three summer months accounts for 50-60 per cent of the total annual precipitation and that in winter is only 15 per cent.

In spring and autumn the continental and oceanic winds blow alternately and warm and clement weather continues.

Though it is small, Korea has great regional differences in climate. It is because it lies from north to south lengthways at the mid-latitude where the latitudinal differences in the amount of solar reflection are greatest and its terrain is complicated with many mountains. Also temperature and precipitation differ according to regions since Korea has many climatic zones from the subtropical zone on the south coast to the subfrigid zone in the northern alpine regions. The Korean climate is greatly influenced by terrain as well as by solar reflection and air currents.

Korea lies lengthwise from north to south and has many high mountain ranges running north and south in the east. The mountain ranges have innumerable out-shoots stretching out southwestwards, forming valleys and giving rise to many short rivers.

Rivers longer than 5 km number more than 2,000 in the northern half of the DPRK alone. The short rivers including 2 km-long ones count over 8,000.

Five to ten km-long rivers account for 60 per cent of middle and small rivers of Korea and 11-20 km-long rivers 25.2 per cent.

The largest five rivers above 400 km long are the Amnok-gang River (790.4 km), Tuman-gang River (about 440 km), Rakdong River (about 525 km), and Han River (about 514 km).

The Amnok-gang River has a wide basin of about 60,000 square km.

NEWS DISPATCH FROM PYONGYANG

Aug. 23

* Monique Simon, Secretary of the International Lawyers Committee for Democracy and Human Rights in South Korea, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

Aug. 24

* A film delegation of the DPRK left Pyongyang by plane to attend the function of the film week marking the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the DPRK to be held in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.
* The Pyongyang School Children's Art Troupe headed by Kim Jong Ho left Pyongyang by plane for a visit to the Guinean Revolutionary People's Republic.

Aug. 25

* A Liaoning Provincial delegation of the Communist Party of China headed by Zhang Jingde, Secretary of the Liaoning Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China arrived in Pyongyang.
* A party workers delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Modesto Perez Espinosa, Member and Secretary of the Villa Clara Provincial Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.
* A delegation of "Komunist", the politico-theoretical magazine of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, headed by its Deputy Editor-in-Chief L.K. Naumenko arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

Aug. 26

* A delegation of "Scientia", the organ of the CC of the Romanian Communist Party, headed by Viorel Salagean, Chief of the Economic Section of the paper, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.
* A delegation of "Komunist," the organ of the CC of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, headed by Veljko Miladinovic, its Editor-in-Chief, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

Aug. 29

* A delegation of the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry of China headed by its Director Qichen arrived in Pyongyang by plane.
* A Chinese forestry friendship delegation headed by Zhang Shijun, Vice-Minister of Forestry, arrived in Pyongyang by train.
* Hwang Dae Yon, a Korean resident in Canada, arrived in Pyongyang by plane for a visit to the DPRK.
* The 1980-81 plan for cultural exchange between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Democratic Republic of the Sudan was signed in Khartum.
* Nigerian President Alhaji Shehu Shagari met the delegation of the WPK headed by Yang Hyong Sop, Member of the CC of the WPK and President of the Academy of Social Sciences, on a visit to his country. The Nigerian president said that Nigeria will advance hand in hand with Korea for world peace, the establishment of an equitable international economic order and the victory of the non-aligned movement.

Aug. 30

* The protocol of the 20th meeting of Korea-China Inter-Governmental Scientific and Technological Cooperation Commission was signed.
* A film delegation of the DPRK headed by Kim Han Gyu left Pyongyang by train to attend functions to be organized in the Soviet Union during a film week marking the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the DPRK.
* A delegation of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society headed by Kim Sang Jun left Pyongyang by train to attend celebrations of the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the DPRK to be held in the Soviet Union.
* Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadaema met Chon Myong Gyong, Ambassador of the DPRK to Togo. The Togolese president expressed active support to the Korean people in the struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country

Aug. 31

* A Jilin Provincial delegation of the Communist Party of China headed by Wang Dairen, Secretary of the Jilin Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, on the invitation of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the WPK, arrived in Pyongyang.
* Viji Mariko, Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture of Mali, who is a special envoy of His Excellency Moussa Traore, President of the Republic of Mali, and his party arrived in Pyongyang by air.

Sept. 2

* A group of radio and television reporters and cameramen of Hungary headed by Miklos Rengel arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

(KCNA)

SHORT NEWS FROM SEOUL

Aug. 22

* South Korean authorities raised the prices of oil products by 14.72 per cent on an average and the sales price of gasoline, by 12.6 per cent as from midnight, Aug. 24.

Aug. 26

* Pak Tong Jin, "foreign minister", conferred with Ray Cline, foreign affairs advisor to Reagan, presidential candidate of the Republican Party.

Aug. 27

* The third working-level conference of the south Korea-U.S. agricultural produce committee was held to discuss next year's induction scale of agricultural goods from the U.S.

Aug. 28

* Gleysteen, U.S. ambassador to south Korea, who had been in the U.S. for 40 days since July 15, returned to south Korea after consultation with the U.S. government. He conferred with "foreign minister" Pak Tong Jin on the following day.

Aug. 29

* Nam Dok U, ex-"vice-premier" and board director of the economic planning board returned to Seoul. He had been studying economics at the East-West Centre of the University of Hawaii.
* The Chon Du Hwan military regime held a court hearing at the Seoul Supreme Court and sentenced 73 defendants of the "south Korean national liberation front incident" to penalties. Two defendants, Ri Jae Mun and Sin Hyang Sik were sentenced to death and five defendants including An Jae Gu, to life imprisonment and the remaining 66 defendants to imprisonment from eight months to 15 years.
* The Chon Du Hwan regime announced the members of the new cabinet with Nam Dok U, director of the economic planning board and ex-"vice-premier", as acting premier. Of the 22 cabinet members, 13 were newly appointed and 9 reappointed.

Sept. 2

* It was disclosed in a survey conducted by the association of clinics of agricultural cooperatives, North Chungchong Province that patients suffering from mental diseases numbered 3,078 (52%), patients suffering from digestive troubles, 2,280 (23%), those suffering from respiratory diseases 446 (14%).
* According to the "Hanguk Ilbo" dated Sept. 2 the condition of agriculture is serious because of flood, draft, seed blight and pollution. The agricultural population last year fell below 30 per cent of the total population to 28.9 per cent. As many as 644,000 farmers left their farms last year alone.

U.S., UK Newspapers on Kim Dae Jung

Newspapers in the world and particularly in capitalist countries roundly exposed the vicious intention of Chon Du Hwan who sentenced on Sept. 17 Kim Dae Jung, a popular south Korean democrats, to death.

The editorials were carried on Sept. 18 on the death sentence of Kim Dae Jung each in the New York Times, Washington Star and The Times. The New York Times also carried an article on Kim's death sentence written by Jerome Alan Cohen who is on leave as director of East Asian legal studies at Harvard Law School. They described as ugly and inhuman the death sentence imposed on Kim Dae Jung.

Meanwhile, nine countries of the European Community protested the Seoul authorities against its court-martial which sentenced Kim Dae Jung to death, according to a report which was made public on Sept. 24 in Brussels.

The New York Times

Millions of people watching television this week need no further instruction in samurai justice. The loser's penalty in early 17th-century Japan was predictable and brutal – a quick thwack of the sword, a suddenly headless neck. In "Shogun," the NBC mini-series based on James Clavell's novel, the feudal savagery is rooted in Asian history which viewers may assume is mercifully past. It isn't. Samurai swords are still flashing in ostensibly civilized South Korea.

Last October, the old Shogun, President Park Chung Hee, was assassinated by a trusted lieutenant. Now there is a new military overlord, Gen. Chun Doo Hwan.

He had scores to settle, especially after a humiliating student uprising in Kwangju. That uprising was blamed on the seditious intrigues of South Korea's foremost democratic leader, Kim Dae Jung. But the evidence was tenuous; Mr. Kim and his co-defendants were already in jail when the Kwangju riots occurred. So Government prosecutors duly came up with another charge, that Mr. Kim was plotting subversion during a trip to Japan in 1973. But the evidence was tainted, since Mr. Kim had been kidnapped from Tokyo by Korean agents. The abduction outraged the Japanese, who obtained a promise that no evidence developed in Japan would be used against him. The promise was broken.

On Sept. 17, as expected, Mr. Kim was found guilty of sedition by a military tribunal after a semi-secret trial marred by charges of fraud and crude Government pressure. And, as feared, the sentence is death by hanging. Under President Chun's samurai code, there is seemingly no mercy for losers.

The comparison with feudal Japan may be offensive to Koreans; they are a proud people with bitter memories of their past as an imperial colony of the Japanese.

American policy-makers have been indulgent to a fault in accepting these assurances. While the Chun shogunate was assuming power, President Carter saw fit to remark that "the Koreans are not ready for democracy . . . according to their own judgement." Washington's tolerance has now been repaid with the Kim death sentence. Official pragmatism notwithstanding, that verdict is an affront to civilized opinion everywhere. A human rights policy that winks at samurai justice can hardly "ready" South Korea for democracy.

The Times

The trial of Mr. Kim Dae Jung, the South Korean opposition leader, and the death sentence which has now been passed on him, have appalled all those who had hoped that South Korea might be moving towards a more democratic system. Mr. Kim, who stood in the 1971 presidential election and received 45 per cent of the vote, has been a symbol of the growing pressure for more open ways, both under former President Park Chung Hee and since his assassination last October. Yet President Chun Doo Hwan has been apparently determined to eliminate him from the country's political life, along with any other politicians who might threaten the military's control. Since the riots which broke out in Kwangju in May, several thousand people have been detained, many of them political dissidents, and thousands of government employees have been purged. Now Mr. Kim, accused of inciting the riots, has been sentenced to death on charges of subversive activity and communist sympathies.

His trial before a military court convinced few outside observers that he was being given a fair hearing. The case against him was an extremely flimsy one, and he and the others being tried with him had difficulty in obtaining the lawyers they wanted to represent them spoke of mistreatment before the trial opened, when they were under pressure to make confessions. During the trial attempts were made by the south Korean authorities to censor foreign journalists' reports of the proceedings, including statements by Mr. Kim in his own defence. It seemed clear from the beginning that the trial was being stage-managed, and that the verdict was a foregone conclusion.

The case is embarrassing for the United States, and also for Japan, particularly since Mr. Kim was originally kidnapped from an hotel in Tokyo. South Korea is an unusual case of a country which has had great success in overcoming underdevelopment in the economic field though it has run into difficulties lately – but has so far been unable to create a more open political system to match it. President Chun has paid lip service to democratic principles, and has said that there will be elections next year under a new constitution. None of this can possibly be credible if he first proceeds to have Mr. Kim put to death on the basis of a wholly unconvincing trial. If Mr. Kim is killed, that will permanently damage, South Korea's world position.

Washington Star

"It would be a mistake for the Seoul Government to carry out the sentence" against Kim Dae Jung, the South Korean political Opposition leader sentenced to death by a military court, the Washington Star said in an editorial.

"President Chun Doo Hwan may, in fact, have offered private assurance that Mr Kim will not be executed.

"The harsh sentence is not justified by any information that has reached here about the prosecution of Mr. Kim, who ran a close second to the late Park Chung Hee in the 1971 presidential election. The prosecution made a weak case on the serious charges of plotting to overthrow the government."

And the Washington Star added: "The trial, in which 23 codefendants drew prison sentences was seriously flawed

"Mr. Kim's main "crime" seems to have been to act as a democratic goad to the military leaders during the crackdown on dissent after the assassination of President Park. The veteran Opposition leader was hoping to run again for president in the elections that were promised for next year. General Chun has since had himself named to the top post and appears determined to stay.

"U.S.-South Korean relations have been strained by the disappointment of democratic aspirations in that country. The execution of Mr. Kim would be a further insult the alliance can ill afford. President Chun and his associates must suspect, anyway, that disproportionate harshness with a group of political dissident will not make the South Korean people more easily governable," the Washington Star concluded.

Cohen

The sentence of death that a military court in Seoul dealt on Sept. 17 to Kim Dae Jung, the opposition leader, demonstrates the bankruptcy of United States policy toward South Korea.

Four years ago, Jimmy Carter warned the dictator Park Chung Hee that continuing repression was undermining American support for his Government. Now, in Mr. Carter's re-election campaign, he will likely portray it as a victory for his statesmanship if American pressure manages to save Mr. Kim. South Korea's most dynamic democratic leader, from death, even if Mr. Kim is left unjustly to rot in prison for life while Koreans suffer under the even more repressive regime that seized power after Mr. Park's assassination.

We could savor the ironies were the situation not so tragic. Gen. Chun Doo Hwan literally shoots his way to power, violating the United Nations Command structure by his illegitimate use of troops. He then jails Mr. Kim to prevent him from taking part in a widely demanded popular Presidential election. When protests break out in Mr. Kim's native province, the savage reaction of General Chun's troops leads to an uprising in the provincial capital of Kwangju that results in a bloodbath that shatters the painstakingly nurtured modus vivendi between the army and civilian society. Mr. Kim then is accused of sedition for supposedly having fomented all this. To discredit the popular Mr. Kim, whose real "crime" is that in 1971 he almost unseated Mr. Park in South Korea's last relatively free election and is a persuasive proponent of the human rights that General Chun detests, the general fabricates charges that Mr. Kim is a Communist. This is doubly ironic: Mr. Kim is a Jeffersonian democrat and devout Roman Catholic who has kept his faith in the possibility of representative government despite all manner of intimidation including an auto "accident," kidnapping, house arrest, and repeated imprisonment.

General Chun, now President, has perfected the "big lie" technique. Mr. Park's Government was notorious for censorship that sanitized reality, but General Chun's goes beyond that, falsely telling the people that at his trial Mr. Kim admitted key charges of an indictment that sought to make up in length what it lacked in strength. Mr. Kim has admitted violations of the martial-law decree and the foreign-currency-control law, but has vigorously denied that he violated the sedition and national-security laws, under which the death penalty has been imposed. Actually, the military judges, under command influence, had to rely on the "confession" extracted from Mr. Kim in long weeks of interrogation, 15 hours per day, in an underground cell where he was often stripped nude. Mr. Kim, like his 23 co-defendants, repudiated his coerced confession. Still, in a trial that travestied justice, they were all convicted – the 23 got prison terms – despite the prosecution's failure to prove what our State Department has called the "farfetched" charges. The Korean authorities' view was summed up by the chief prosecutor who, echoing General Chun's public statements, told the court: "Such an opportunist, agitator politician must be eliminated from this land for good."

Kim Dae Jung's life must be spared, and General Chun may well be prepared to spare it – at least for now – in return for the American support he so desperately needs for legitimacy. But for Washington to barter its support so cheaply would be tragic. The sedition and national-security charges should be dropped and Mr. Kim, and the other defendants released, together with all political prisoners. More fundamentally, the country should be permitted to resume the quest for an open political system that it was embarked upon when General Chun shot his way to power.

Korea Focus

N-S Korean PM Talks

A halt has come to working-level meetings intended to hold north-south Korean Premiers talks.

In the wake of the assassination of Pak Jung Hi public demands for democratic political development became stronger throughout south Korea, involving students, democrats and people in other walks of life. Hopes of territorial reunification were voiced openly, with active debate being conducted. In a March poll by The Choson Ilbo, 57.34 percent said the reunification must be achieved by all means.

As a matter of fact, harsh criticisms were made of the so-called reunification policy of Syngman Rhee and Pak Jung Hi. The two men kept up draconic crackdowns on the democratic dissident forces only to perpetuate them in power. The only justification for such oppression was "national security." In other words, the north-south confrontation was deliberately intensified to rationalize the reckless repressive measures and maintain the regimes.

In his article in The Dong-A Ilbo on April 9, a noted scholar on government Li Hyo Son wrote: ". . . the ruling quarters carried out oppressive measures more often before, during and after elections. After being sworn in as first President in 1948, Syngman Rhee intensified ruthless crackdowns on the press and the Opposition in '52, '56, '60 and '60 when he ran for the 2nd term, 3rd term and 4th terms. It did not appear that provocations from the north increased particularly because of the elections."

Seoul University's assistant professor Kim Hak Jun observed: "For a long period we have viewed the reunification issue either as an antithesis of the national security issue or as secondary to it . . . . Such fundamental stance toward the reunification issue has invited charges south Korea is passive and self-protective with regard to the issue of national reunification."

National consensus on territorial reunification and harsh criticisms of the reunification policy of his predecessors prompted Choi Gyu Ha to accept Pyongyang's proposal for Premiers talks.

However, Chon Du Hwan, new strongman in Seoul, keeps the public aspirations for reunification under control and shows no sign of soul-searching reflection on the misconceived "passive and self-protective" reunification policy conduct. Inheriting the national security-first policy of his predecessors, Chon is aggravating north-south tensions.

To seize power, he carried out the Kwangju Massacre and unprecedented crackdowns on the populace under the pretext of the alleged "threat from the north." Yet, frontline troops supposedly deployed to deter such threat were diverted to Seoul and Kwangju for the worst crackdown. Chon did so because he was well aware of the non-existence of that threat.

Needless to say, such a guy is far from qualified to conduct north-south talks. Nam Dok U has no credentials as "Premier." Although he got post-factum approval from the "National Assembly," the legislature was reduced to a nominal existence, with leading members arrested or expelled and all political activities banned under martial law. The legislature has no law-making powers any longer. The junta, the Special Committee for State Security Measures, is currently in possession of those powers. Approval form such rubber stamp cannot be legal. No talks on a national undertaking are possible with an illegal "Premier" and those hated and cursed by the people.

The death sentence passed on Kim Dae Jung is enough to disqualify Chon Du Hwan to take a seat on north-south talks. Kim Dae Jung is charged of "anti-state crimes." His strong call for peaceful reunification through north-south negotiations. Those guys condemning to death proponents of reunification are in no position to talk about the reunification issue.

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